REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In light of the above-amendment and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

Claims 29, 30, 38, 50, 51, 54, 57-59, 63, 66, 67, 76, 77, 93, 94 and 96 have been amended to correct minor informalities and claims 29-96 are presented for consideration.

Claims 30, 33, 35, 36, 38, 47, 48, 58, 63, 66, 67, 76, 94 and 96 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's kind attention to the fact that in accordance with Examiner's suggestion. claims 33, 35 and 63 have been amended in the previous amendment filed March 31, 2004 to recite that if more than one queries are determined to have the greatest-valued result, then one query is selected as having a maximum result. That is, if there is a tie as to which query has the greatest-valued result, then one query is selected or designated as having the maximum result.

Claims 36, 38, 64 and 66 have been similarly amended to recite that one query is selected as having a minimum result if there is a tie as to which query has the least-valued result.

Claims 30, 58, 63, 66, 67, 76, 94 and 96 have amended to overcome the Examiner's objections and to incorporate Examiner's kind suggestions.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, applicants respectfully submits that claims 47 and 48 are definite in that these claims clearly recite the step of displaying the first query and its corresponding result, if it is determined that the first query has either the greatest-valued result or the least-valued result. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 47 and 48 define applicants' invention in clear and definite term, as required in U.S.C. § 112.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 30, 33, 35, 36, 38, 47, 48, 58, 63, 66, 67, 76, 94 and 96 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 38, 50, 51, 54, 57, 59, 77 and 93 have been objected to because of various informalities; and these claims have been amended to satisfy such objections. It is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 38, 50, 51, 54, 57, 59, 77 and 93 be

withdrawn.

Additionally, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, the system claims 93 and 96 have been amended to "a computer system" claims.

Claims 29-96 have been rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,490,811 (Yianilos et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 5,802,51 (Adar et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Additionally, applicants respectfully directs the Examiner attention to the fact this rejection has been already addressed and overcome in previous amendment filed on December 9, 2002 in response to the Office Action dated August 9, 2002 (Paper No. 9).

For the Examiner's convenience, applicants recite their arguments detailed in the December 9, 2002 amendment.

Yianilos et al. and Adar et al. relate to an informational retrieval system, whereas the present invention relates to a system and method for analyzing data to enable users to make better informed decisions. Yianilos et al. performs an approximate string comparison operation and computes a measure of string similarity (Yianilos et al: col. 2, lines 20-22). Adar et al. identifies each document which contains the search string(s), counts the number of search strings which identified each document and ranks the document based on the count (Adar et al.: Figs. 2 and 3; col. 5, line 59 to col. 6, line 5; and col. 7, line 66 to col. 8, line 16).

Even assuming *arguendo* that Yianilos et al. and Adar relate to a system for analyzing data, contrary to the Examiner's assertion. Yianilos et al. does not teach or suggest "determining queries in a plurality of queries having at least one computation and sharing one or more elements in common with the user query to provide a set of related queries," as called for in independent claim 29 and similarly in independent claims 50, 54, 57, 76, 93 and 96. In fact, col. 4, lines 22-28, 51-67 and col. 5, lines 1-10 in Yianilos et al. cited by the Examiner, merely describe that "the word comparator device is used to rapidly locate records most similar to a query ... Most central to this invention is the notion of word similarity." That is, if we assume that "at least one computation" is a similarity function, then Yianilos et al. at best computes the result of the user query by finding records that satisfy or are similar to the user query. However, Yianilos et al. or Adar et al. independently or in combination

does not teach or suggest determining related queries sharing one or more elements in common with the user query, as recited in independent claim 29 and similarly in independent claims 50, 54, 57, 76, 93 and 96. It is appreciated that determining multiple records or results for a given query is not equivalent to determining multiple queries related to that given query.

Additionally, Yianilos et al. or Adar et al. does not teach or suggest determining computationally related queries, as called for in claims 54 and 93.

Further, Yianilos et al. or Adar et al. does not teach or suggest pre-determining a set of computationally related queries and pre-determining queries having the greatest-valued or least-valued result from the set of computationally related queries, as called for in claims 50 and 76. It is appreciated that the term "pre-determining" means determining these related queries before receiving the user query. That is, the present invention pre-determines these related queries in advance by examining the entire database records or data sets without knowing the "attribute-valued strings" of the user query.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing differences, it is respectfully submitted that the combination Yianilos et al. and Adar et al. does not render obvious claims 29, 50, 54, 57, 76, 93 and 96 or any of claims 30-49, 51-53, 55, 56, 58-75, 77-92, 94 and 95 dependent on claims 29, 50, 54, 57, 76 and 93. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.
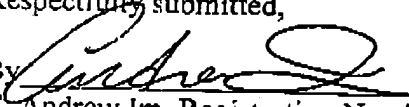
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. **NY-VIR 201-US (10001987)** from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 10|12|04

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
C. Andrew Im, Registration No. 40,657
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10103
(212) 318-3000
(212) 318-3400 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant

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